

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A block made of solid wood or pressboard for the construction of a solid wall by staggered stacking, the block comprising:

an upper face and a lower face and two opposite ends;

a pair of flanges on the upper face and a pair of grooves on the lower face for the assembly of the block by tongue and groove joint, a longitudinal axis of the flanges on the upper face and a longitudinal axis of the grooves on the lower face facing each other two by two on the same vertical axis, a diameter of each groove is greater than a diameter of the flange in the same vertical axis;

the upper face comprising an upper bearing surface located within and delimited by adjacent interior edges of the pair of flanges;

the lower face comprising a lower supported surface located within and delimited by adjacent interior edges of the pair of grooves;

a splined tongue and groove joint at each of the two ends, parallel to the wall facings and perpendicular to the upper and lower faces, for a symmetrical assembly at the two ends of the block; at each splined tongue and groove joint, a group of two countersunk holes perpendicular to the upper face, passing through the block up to the lower face and located on an axis that is parallel to the flanges and between the latter, in the same longitudinal axis as the splined tongue and groove joints; and

means for screwing or nailing inserted into each of the countersunk holes at a depth equal to at least one third of the thickness of the block.

23. (previously presented) The block according to claim 22 having a rectangular parallelepiped shape with a height up to 20 centimeters.

24. (previously presented) The block according to claim 23 having a length up to 60 centimeters and a ratio of the length to the width not exceeding one third.

25. (previously presented) The block according to claim 23 wherein the flanges and grooves present a profile in a semicircle whose cumulative length of chords or diameters per face does not exceed one third of the width of the block.

26. (previously presented) The block according to claim 25 comprising a bevelled edge profiled on the upper edge of the block and subtracted from the width of the block.

27. (previously presented) The block according to claim 25 wherein the diameter or the chord of the groove is ten percent larger than the diameter of the flange.

28. (previously presented) The block according to claim 25 wherein the distance between the outside edge of the groove and adjacent wall facing is not less than one-tenth of the width calculated on the upper face of the block.

29. (previously presented) The block according to claim 24 comprising more than one splined tongue and groove joint at each of the ends, a scraped area that is caused by the grooves of the splined tongue and groove joints not exceeding one third of the surface area of the square section of the block.

30. (previously presented) The block according to claim 29 wherein the depth of the grooves does not exceed the distance between the wall facing and first line of the grooves.

31. (previously presented) The block according to claim 22 comprising, for each group of two holes and from a leveling course, a distance that is equal to a half-width of the block for one of the holes, and a distance that is equal to three-quarters of the length of the block for the other hole.

32. (currently amended) A block made of solid wood or pressboard for the construction of a solid wall by staggered stacking, the block comprising:

an upper face and a lower face and two opposite ends;

a pair of flanges on the upper face and a pair of grooves on the lower face for the assembly of the block by tongue and groove joint, a longitudinal axis of the flanges on the upper face and a longitudinal axis of the grooves on the lower face facing each other two by two on the same vertical axis,

the flanges and grooves each present a profile in a semicircle,

a splined tongue and groove joint at each of the two ends, parallel to the wall facings and perpendicular to the upper and lower faces, for a symmetrical assembly at the two ends of the block;

two groups of two holes, one of the groups of two holes located at each splined tongue and groove joint, each of the holes being a countersunk hole perpendicular to the upper face, passing through the block up to the lower face and located on an

axis that is parallel to the flanges and between the latter, in the same longitudinal axis as the splined tongue and groove joints;

for each group of two holes, a distance that is equal to a half-width of the block for one of the holes, and a distance that is equal to three-quarters of the length of the block for the other hole,

wherein the two groups of two holes are located symmetrically at the two ends of the block.

33. (previously presented) The block according to claim 22 wherein the diameter of the holes does not exceed the side of the width of the groove of the splined tongue and groove joints and allowing passage of screw or metal tips of equal diameter.

34. (cancelled).

35. (previously presented) The block according to claim 22 together with another said block, wherein the splines of the splined tongue and groove joints have dimensions in length, thickness and width that are five percent lower than the grooves of the two blocks placed end to end.

36. (previously presented) The block according to claim 22 together with another said block, wherein said upper face

comprises of a region containing said pair of flanges and a remaining end region defined by a portion of the upper face to be covered by joining another block at a right angle at said end region, said end region being free of said pair of flanges.

37. (previously presented) The block according to claim 26 wherein the diameter or the chord of the groove is ten percent larger than the diameter of the flange.

38. (previously presented) The block according to claim 26 wherein the distance between the outside edge of the groove and adjacent wall facing is not less than one-tenth of the width calculated on the upper face of the block.

39. (new) The block according to claim 22 together with another said block, wherein said upper face comprises of a region containing said pair of flanges and a remaining end region defined by a portion of the upper face to be covered by joining another block at a right angle at said end region.

40. (new) The block according to claim 23 wherein the flanges and grooves present a profile in a semicircle.